GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2772
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2000
CHILD LABOUR
LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY;MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the practice of child labour is still prevalent in the country and the incidents of atrocities on child labourers have not come down;

(b) whether the Human Rights Commission Madhya Pradeshand other social organisations have time and again drawn the attention of Government towards it;

(c) whether the existing Child Labour Laws are insufficient and there is a need to amend these laws;

(d) if so, the reforms made by the Government during the last three years; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to make these laws more effective to eradicate Child Labour?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a) : As per the 1991 census the number of working children in the country is 11.28 million. Government has a National Policy on Child Labour, which contains an action plan for dealing with the problem of Child Labour.
Government is committed to the goal of eradication of child labour in all its forms. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, a gradual, progressive and sequential approach has been adopted to withdraw and rehabilitate child labour.

(b) As per the information received from Madhya Pradesh Human Rights Commission, the topic of Child Labour was selected for creating wide spread awareness in the state on 13th September 2000 being the foundation day of the Commission. About 100 meetings were organised in 61 districts of the State on that day including through NGOs.
This Commission has also persuaded the State Government to make special efforts to eliminate child labour from hazardous industries and to secure attendance of children in schools.

(c) to (e) : The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act,1986 prohibits employment of children in occupations and processes listed in the schedule to the Act. Additional occupations and processes have been added to the schedule in the last 3 years on the recommendation of the Technical Advisory Committee set up under the Act.
The Central Government is responsible for enforcement of Child Labour(Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 in Railways, major ports, mines, oil fields and establishments under the control of the Central Government. In all other cases, State/UT Governments are responsible for enforcement of the Act. Employers found employing children in occupation and processes prohibited under the Act are prosecuted under the provisions of the Act. Implementation of the provisions of the Act are monitored by the Central Government.